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Steel CEO: Tariffs 'loophole' threatens Butler plant

By Daniel Moore
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Threatening to close a plant in Butler employing 1,500 people, a steel company CEO pressed the Trump administration on Wednesday to expand tariffs to include electrical steels entering the United States through Mexico and Canada.

Lourenco Goncalves, chairman and CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., said in an interview he would "shut that plant down," doubling down on a "promise" he made last week before a congressional panel to cut those jobs should U.S. officials not act swiftly to stem the flow of imports.

In addition to expanded tariffs, Mr. Gonclaves said, he wants Congress to strengthen trade law to expose and penalize entities that deliberately evade U.S. tariffs. "We want smugglers to go to jail," he said.

The high-profile complaints cast a spotlight on a complicated issue that has increasingly consumed the work of Washington trade lawyers two years after President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on steel imports from most countries.

Foreign companies often can get around those tariffs by routing their products through other countries or by further processing the product into something else.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has issued at least 31 anti-circumvention rulings as of last year, more than four times as many as the Obama administration during the same period, according to agency figures.

Last July, the department imposed duties as high as 456% on

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Region's colleges switch all classes to online

By Bill Schackner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Online learning, ready or not, is about to get a cinematic close-up as hundreds of thousands of college students across Pennsylvania and beyond move from classrooms to remote instruction as leaders scramble to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University all announced in steady succession Wednesday that they are suspending in-person instruction — and in some cases delaying return from spring break — to ward off the virus.

They join major universities nationally that have announced similar moves in recent days, from Columbia, Stanford and Harvard universities to the University of Washington and Ohio State University.

It will be a scale of remote learning far outside the norm.

Then again, these are not normal times.

"This is an unprecedented scenario for U.S. universities," Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher wrote to the campus in a message Wednesday afternoon. "It is a situation that is changing dramatically — and daily."

There is plenty of uncertainty, from whether bandwidth on some campuses will hold up, to how schools will deal with questions that arise about assignments that come in late or faculty who struggle to grasp some of the technology.

But campuses for weeks have been girding.

"We've been preparing for this for a long time," Cynthia Golden, associate vice provost and executive director of Pitt's University Center for Teaching and Learning, said in recent days.

Pitt officials said they will extend spring break until March 23 to provide faculty time to transition courses to remote instruction for the university's 34,000 students on five campuses, most of them enrolled in Oakland. Other campuses are Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville.

Mr. Gallagher said that in addition, Pitt will request:

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Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

Dan Gilman, Mayor Bill Peduto's chief of staff, talks about steps the city is taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during a news conference Wednesday at the City-County Building.

City suspends all travel for employees amid COVID-19 outbreak concerns

By Ashley Murray
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

While the city continues to grapple with how to contain the likely spread of COVID-19, leaders took additional preventative steps on Wednesday by announcing all business travel for city employees has been suspended effective immediately and that large city meetings will be canceled for the time being.

The measures were announced at a joint news conference held by staff of the mayor's office and the city's Department of Public Safety.

National air business travel may be granted to essential employees on an emergency basis with written permission, mayoral chief of staff Dan Gilman said at a news conference.

International business travel is banned completely.

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- Trump suspends all travel from Europe to U.S. for 30 days, **Page A-6**

Dow falls into bear market as virus fears intensify

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks careened lower Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrials sinking more than 1,400 points, as investors became more fearful that the Trump administration and other global governments won't be able to prevent the coronavirus outbreak from doing significant damage to the worldwide economy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1,464 points, dragging it 20% below the record set last month and putting it in a bear market. The broader S&P 500 index, which professional investors watch more closely, is a single percentage point away from falling into its own bear market, which would end the longest bull market in Wall Street history.

The decline has been one of the swiftest sell-offs of this magnitude. The fastest the S&P 500 has ever fallen from a record into a bear market was over 55 days in 1987.

Vicious swings such as Wednesday's session are becoming routine as investors rush to sell amid uncertainty about how badly the outbreak will hit the economy. The

SEE **MARKET**, PAGE A-6

NCAA: Upcoming tournaments off-limits to general public

The Associated Press

The buzzer beaters, upsets and all the other shining moments of this year's NCAA tournaments will be played in mostly empty arenas.

Trying to avoid spreading the deadly coronavirus that has become a global pandemic, the NCAA has decided that the men's and women's tournament games will be off-limits to the general public.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said Wednesday that he made the decision to conduct both tournaments, which begin next week, with only essential staff and limited family in attendance. The decision comes after the NCAA's COVID-19 advisory panel of medical experts recommended against playing sporting events open to the general public.

For Pittsburgh-area college basketball fans, this puts a bit of adamper on Robert Morris punching its ticket to March Madness on Tuesday night by winning the NEC tournament. The Colonials will find out whom, when and where they will play on Sunday, but fans won't be allowed to attend Robert Morris' first appearance in the Big Dance since 2015.

Robert Morris also announced Wednesday that its women's team will be playing its NEC tournament game Thursday night without fans as well as per the NCAA guideline.

Mr. Emmert told The Associated Press that canceling the tournament was considered.

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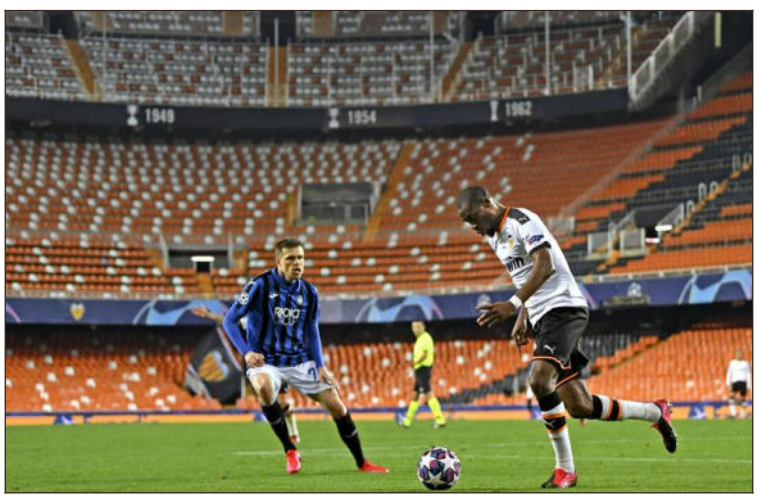

UEFA via AP

Valencia's Geoffrey Kondogbia, right, vies for the ball with Atalanta's Josip Ilicic during a Champions League match Tuesday in an empty stadium because of the new coronavirus outbreak in Valencia, Spain.

Weather
Mostly cloudy with showers.
Daytime high, 63;
tonight's low, 51
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